college in the country, the Government of India is not in favour of establishment of any new medical college in the country.

Shifting of the Thorium Plant at Trombay

*19. DR. BAPU KALDATE : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Thorium Plant at Trombay near Bombay to another place;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide alternative employment to over two hundred employees presently working at the plant; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The existing Plant is to be replaced as it is very old and beyond economical repair and service. The Atomic Energy Commission has decided to shift out of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre premises in Tromby, plants and laboratories which are not directly related to the R&D programme of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The employees who opt to shift to the new location will be transferred, whereas others will be provided alternative employment in other units of Deptt. of Atomic Energy located in Bombay. Those who opt to take voluntary retirement will be paid due compensation.

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Post Offices in Assam

*20. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of Post Offices set up in Assam from 1986 to 1988 and till date;

(b) whether there is a demand from the people of Assam to set up more Post Offices in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO):

Statement

(a) The number of new post offices opened in Assam from 1985-86 to 1989-90 (upto 30 June, 1989) is as follows:

Year	Number of **Post** Offices ***apmtd***
1985-86	**Nil**
1986-87	**Nil**
1287-88	26
1988-89	22
1989-90 (Up to 30-6-1989)	25
TOTAL	73

(b) and (c) Requests have been received for opening post offices a